

May 10, 1999 4387 '99 MAY 19 14:25

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Rm 1061
Rockville, MD, 20852

RE: Docket #98N-1038 "Irradiation in the production, processing, & handling of Food"

The FDA's reason for labeling is still valid - that irradiation is a process that can change the texture, taste, storage characteristics and nutrients of a food and should, therefore, be disclosed to avoid misleading the consumer.

Any food or food product should be prominently labeled; all irradiated components of a food or food product should be identified.

The label should contain the words "IRRADIATED" or "IRRADIATION". Other terms are confusing and misleading. A prominent symbol should also be displayed on the label.

I oppose any expiration date on labeling of irradiated foods. All foods and food products should be labeled henceforth so long as they are irradiated to avoid confusion and to provide consumer information.

Sincerely,



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